

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: May 12, 2011

**SUBJECT: STC PO Core Regulation Public Comment Report
and Request to Establish Executive Steering Committee**

AGENDA ITEM: F

ACTION: X

RESOURCE PERSON: Barbara Fenton

INFORMATION:

Summary: This agenda item presents the results of the public comment period that was held pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, regarding the proposed revision to the Minimum Standards for Training, Title 15, Section 173, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Section 173 pertains to the Probation Officer Core Course for entry-level probation officers. The proposed change in Core Course hours, based on the results of the Probation Officer Core Course Revision Project, increased the number of course hours from 174 to 196.

During the Comment period, staff received a written comment submitted by the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) representing concerns of their members. The letter expressed support for the revision but identified concern with the fiscal impact of the increase in training hours.

As a result of the comments received, this agenda item requests that an Executive Steering Committee be established to review the comments and, if necessary, develop recommendations for the CSA Board.

Background: The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) is mandated by Penal Code Section 6035 to adopt and from time to time amend minimum training standards for probation officers and other correctional personnel. As part of this responsibility, the Standards and Training for Corrections Division, upon request from the field, initiated a revision to the Probation Officer Core Course. The project included substantial collaboration with and input from the field and was completed in November 2010.

At the November Board meeting, the Board directed staff to follow the rulemaking process and submit to the draft regulation revision to the Office of Administrative Law to begin the 45-day public comment period. After the public comment period, two public hearings, chaired by a CSA Board member, were held. The Public Comment period began February 25, 2011 and concluded April 15, 2011. Two public hearings were held: April 26, 2011 in Sacramento and April 28, 2011 in San Bernardino.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

Staff recommends:

1. The CSA establish an Executive Steering Committee to review the comments received and develop recommendations.
2. Appoint a Chair for the Executive Steering Committee.
3. The CSA empower the Chair of the ESC to select committee members and report recommendations for consideration at the July, 2011 CSA meeting.